

## Patent claims

1. Surface-modified zinc oxides, characterized in that they have the following physico-chemical characteristic data:

5        BET surface areas:  $18 \pm 5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$   
      C content:            0.5 to 1.0 wt.%

2. Process for the preparation of the surface-modified zinc oxides according to claim 1, characterized in that the zinc oxides, optionally after spraying with water, are  
10        sprayed with the surface-modifying agent at room temperature and the mixture is then heat-treated at a temperature of 50 to 400°C over a period of 1 to 6 h.

3. Process for the preparation of the surface-modified zinc oxides according to claim 1, characterized in that the  
15        zinc oxides, optionally after spraying with water, are treated with the surface-modifying agent in vapour form and the mixture is then heat-treated at a temperature of 50 to 800°C over a period of 0.5 to 6 h.

4. Use of the surface-modified zinc oxides according to  
20        claim 1 for the preparation of cosmetics, in particular sunscreen compositions.